



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Tennessee Tower, 3rd Floor
Conference Room M
Thursday, February 21, 2019
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Phil Acord, Chair
Brenda Davis
Jennie Harlan
Amy Jones
Rob Mortensen
Christy Sigler

Members Absent

Sharon Green
Genesis Hardin
Lisa Hill
Altha Stewart
Glenda Terry

Staff Present

Craig Hargrow
Richard Kennedy
LaTasha Mitchell
Steve Petty
Vicki Taylor
Zanira Whitfield

Guest

Mike Huffaker, Division of State Audit, Comptroller of the Treasury

I. Welcome and Introductions – Phil Acord, Chair

Acord called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m., welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance. Introductions were made.

II. Approval of Minutes (ACTION)

IT WAS MOVED (SIGLER) AND SECONDED (MORTENSEN) TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 2018 JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE MINUTES AS AMENDED. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

III. Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) Violations – Zanira Whitfield

Whitfield discussed the DSO Violations Report. The total number of DSO violations from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018, was 53. Acord had concerns about DSO violations in Hawkins County. Whitfield stated the issue with Hawkins County has been resolved, violations were due to a substitute judge. Whitfield stated DSO violations are down significantly. Whitfield is in the process of completing the compliance monitoring report to submit to OJJDP to be certified to be in compliance with the core requirements.

IV. Grant Contract Monitoring – Latasha Mitchell

Mitchell sent updated monitoring guides and requested documentation packets to CASA grantees. Mitchell has cut back on some of the documentation grantees were submitting. Mitchell completed the 2018 monitoring of grantees and started the 2019 monitoring process which entails a two part procedure and mid-year review and end of year follow up. Grantees are receptive to new process and feel it is helpful. Mitchell discussed AOC findings and observations and adjusted monitoring report due to feedback. AOC felt it was an unfair review and declined grant funds.

V. Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Task Force Update – Craig Hargrow

Hargrow continues to provide technical assistance and support to the Davidson, Madison and Shelby County DMC task forces. Hargrow and John Hall continue to have conference calls with Bernard Williams, the new DMC Coordinator for Shelby County Juvenile Court, to discuss ways to collaborate and implement DMC reduction efforts.

Hargrow was in Shelby County on December 13th and 14th to meet with several DMC reduction advocates, including Commission Member Dr. Altha Stewart. Hargrow also presented during Shelby County Juvenile Court's DMC training on December 14th.

Hargrow reported concerns about DOJ pulling out of Shelby County monitoring agreement. DOJ was monitoring what Shelby County was doing based on an agreement they made to improve in certain areas regarding their Juvenile Justice System. They had made improvements except for DMC.

Hargrow continues to prepare Tennessee's DMC reduction plan based on updated information and instructions provided by OJJDP.

Hargrow continues to serve on the Steering Committee for Positive and Safe Schools Advancing Greater Equity (PASSAGE), an initiative that aims to lower racial and other disparities in school discipline through creating school and community partnerships in Metro Nashville. PASSAGE has not met recently.

Hargrow continues his efforts as the CJJ National DMC Coordinator Representative. In this capacity, Hargrow serves DMC Coordinators in other states and provides guidance and technical assistance. He also co-chairs monthly CJJ DMC/Ethnic and Cultural

Diversity (ECD) conference calls. The following are some of the items discussed during the calls:

- The new DMC plans;
- Planning the CJJ DMC Conference; and
- DMC-related legislation, including the reauthorization of the JJDP.

As the CJJ National DMC Coordinator Representative, Hargrow attended the CJJ DMC Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, November 27 – 30, 2018. Hargrow moderated a panel discussion during the opening plenary session. The session focused on how different states address DMC and some promising practices. The session also focused on how DMC reduction efforts have changed over the years. Additionally, OJJDP provided critical DMC training during the CJJ DMC Conference. Hargrow split his time between the CJJ DMC Conference and the OJJDP training.

Hargrow reminded the committee of all the hard work Zanira Whitfield, Vicki Taylor and regional staff do to conduct compliance monitoring for detention centers, temporary holding facilities, youth development centers, jails and lockups. The diligent efforts of TCCY monitoring staff have helped keep Tennessee's deinstitutionalization of status offender (DSO) violations down over the years.

In addition to conducting compliance monitoring, Whitfield and Taylor continue to provide technical assistance to CASA and Federal Formula grantees. Latasha Mitchell continues to improve the contract monitoring process.

Whitfield and Taylor are diligently working on preparing the update to Tennessee's Three-Year Plan. The update to the state plan, application requirements and compliance submissions are due to OJJDP by 8 p.m. ET on March 14, 2019.

Hargrow stated Taylor and Whitfield attended critical JJ Specialist and Compliance Monitoring training provided by OJJDP in Baltimore, Maryland. The training occurred November 27 – 30, 2018.

As the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) National DMC Coordinator Representative, Hargrow continues to actively serve as a CJJ Executive Board member. He participates in the monthly CJJ Executive Board meetings via teleconference and continues to serve on the CJJ DMC Conference Planning Committee.

Hargrow continues to actively serve on the Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) State Council.

VI. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) Update – Craig Hargrow

JJDP was reauthorized in December 2018. Hargrow reported Tennessee looks forward to incorporating changes from the reauthorization and remaining in compliance. Acord inquired about the Valid Court Order (VCO) issue with the final reauthorization.

Hargrow reported the VCO remained in the JJDPA. Whitfield reported there are changes to the VCO process that will have to be implemented. Davis asked if federal funding had increased with reauthorization. Hargrow reported overall Juvenile Justice dollars increased and Title II funding stayed the same.

Hargrow reports his main concern with the reauthorization is some of the requirements regarding the SAG membership. Kennedy reported Governor Lee will be able to appoint his first third of commission members and this will be a good time for current members to have some input when the administration considers the next round of appointments.

VII. Other Business

Kennedy discussed the Juvenile Justice Reform Implementation Council. Governor Haslam appointed the council before he finished his term in office for them to look at implementing aspects of the Juvenile Justice Reform bill. Kennedy has been appointed to serve on the council.

Petty encouraged commission members to review JJ legislation documents from the Legislative committee.

ACORD MOTIONED TO ADJOURN MEETING, MORTENSEN SECONDED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

Minutes Approved by:

Zanira Whitfield
Juvenile Justice Specialist

Phil Acord
Chair